

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, VE

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER
ESCOVAR ON KOREA

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE
SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER:

2. BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAD TO TALK AT LUNCH
RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON. I KNOW AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN
HAS DISCUSSED THE COMING DEBATE IN THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON THE KOREAN ITEM BUT I WANTED YOU TO HAVE MY
PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT.

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THE KOREAN ITEM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE AGENDA

THIS YEAR AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED. THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE DEBATE WILL BE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE PENINSULA. I RECOGNIZE THAT MANY UN MEMBERS BELIEVE - AND THE UNITED STATES AGREES - THAT IT IS TIME TO TERMINATE THE UN COMMAND. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PROPOSAL TO TERMINATE THE COMMAND WHICH FAILS TO

PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OF SUCH IMPORTANCE IN KEEPING THE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONTINUED STABILITY IN THE AREA AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THIS STABILITY MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKE RESPONSIBLE ACTION IN THIS DEBATE.

THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED IN COSPONSORING IS DESIGNED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PREVIOUS UN DECISIONS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE AND TO THE NEEDS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA. IT PROVIDES FOR TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND. IT DOES THIS WITHOUT UPSETTING THE PRINCIPAL MECHANISM FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN KOREA, THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT OF 1953, BECAUSE IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UN COMMAND, AS SIGNATORY TO THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, CAN BE REPLACED ONLY WHEN A SUBSTITUTE MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE IS AGREED BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE RESOLUTION RESPONDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ENDORSEMENT IN THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION OF 1973, REAFFIRMED LAST YEAR, OF TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BY CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE ARMISTICE WHICH INCLUDES SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT FORESEES A CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD FIRST PROVIDE NEW MECHANISMS FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE BUT WHICH COULD THEN GO ON TO CONSIDER MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDUCING TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA.

THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF NORTH KOREA
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DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE IT CALLS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE "REAL PARTIES" WHICH NORTH KOREA IDENTIFIES AS THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA, EXCLUDING SOUTH KOREA WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PARTY TO ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. IT CALLS FOR REMOVING THE UN COMMAND WITHOUT ANY PROVISION FOR MAINTAINING THE ARMISTICE MECHANISM WHILE DISCUSSIONS OF A "PEACE

AGREEMENT" PROCEED. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS "UNDER THE UN FLAG" WHICH NORTH KOREA MAKES CLEAR ARE US TROOPS IN KOREA. THESE TROOPS ARE IN KOREA UNDER A US-ROK BILATERAL AGREEMENT AT THE INVITATION OF THE ROK. NORTH KOREA, I NOTE, MAINTAINS TREATIES OF MUTUAL DEFENSE WITH BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC.

THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IS BLATANTLY ONESIDED IN IGNORING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND INTERFERES IN AN IMPORTANT US SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ROK. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE VENEZUELA'S DECISION TO VOTE FOR OUR RESOLUTION. BECAUSE OF THE VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND OUR CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP I HOPE YOU WILL INSTRUCT YOUR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF NORTH KOREA, AS IT DID LAST YEAR.

IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS FURTHER, AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMANN WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER.

END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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